

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

Second, one can produce a catalytically more effective product through the use of knitted catalyst gauzes because one can form three-dimensionally knitted catalyst gauzes. These catalyst gauzes prove to be more effective because of their more complex spatial structure. This applies above all to three-dimensional catalyst gauzes knitted in two or more layers, which are described in ~~EP 0 680 767~~ EP 0 680 787, and in which the meshes of the individual layers are joined to one another by pile threads.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

The basic structure of the catalyst gauzes of the present invention corresponds to the three-dimensional catalyst gauzes knitted in two or more layers described in ~~EP 0 680 767~~ EP 0 680 787, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

It is found that the knitted catalyst gauzes according to the present invention have a significantly higher catalytic activity than conventional three-dimensional catalyst gauzes knitted in two or more layers (corresponding to ~~EP 0 680 767~~ EP 0680 787) into which no weft wires are inserted. Gas reactions can thus be operated either with a lower number of catalyst gauze layers in the catalyst pack and/or with gauzes made of noble metal wires of shorter processing length or smaller thickness, depending on whether they are conducted under atmospheric pressure or under higher pressure. This results in a significantly lower total amount of noble metal employed. The reduction in the amount of noble metal employed is between about 15 and about 30%.